

proposed to be secured by the Constitution, and assuring you of my hearty co-operation and advice whenever you may need it, I am, yours,

Very respectfully,

S. M. FINGER,

*State Superintendent Public Instruction.*

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RALEIGH, N. C., December 30, 1885.

*To the Board of Education of ——— County:*

I herewith enclose blank order-sheet for school books now on our State list of text-books. It will be observed that most of the publishers have agreed to place their books which are now on our State list in a *common depository*, for the convenience of dealers and to save expense necessarily attending the ordering of books, as heretofore done, from each of the publishing houses separately.

You will note that some books, now on our State list, do not appear on the order-blank. The explanation of this is found in the fact that the publishers declined to put them in the depository.

Harrington's Spelling Book, Swinton's Language Primer and Harper's Copy Books have been added to the list, and are named on the order blank with the other books.

Harrington's Spelling Book is so arranged that the child will necessarily learn the meaning of every word it learns to spell, because, if the directions are followed, it will be compelled to use *in sentences* all the words as they occur in the spelling lessons. The book is also so graded that it will be used throughout a common school course, such words being used at the different steps as will meet the pupil's wants as he progresses in other branches of study.

Swinton's Language Primer is intended to be used before the pupil takes English Grammar, and every teacher should see that this is done. This little book has been added to the list as a preparatory book. It is the observation of all good teachers that much time is often wasted on English Grammar because the pupils are expected to learn what they are not prepared for. The proper use of Harrington's Spelling Book and the Language Primer will lay a good foundation for the successful study of English Grammar.

A neat and *thoroughly revised* edition of Holmes' Readers will soon be published. This edition, I think, will be satisfactory in every way; and it will be so arranged that it can be used in connection with the old edition, thus preventing any unnecessary loss by throwing aside the old books. The first number will be so simple, and so well up to the times, that it will meet the wants of the little child just beginning its course. I do not mean to imply that Reading Charts ought to be dispensed with; but where they are not at hand, and where the conditions for their use are not favorable, this first Reader will be suited to the child's wants.

In adding the Graded Spelling Book and the Language Lessons to the list, and in the revision of the Readers the object has been to present a well-graded course which will lead the child naturally and easily to the more difficult branches of study and give him a relish for them when he reaches them, and at the same time not subject parents to expense in throwing aside old books and buying new ones. The disposition we find so prevalent in this day of book making, to change books, thereby adding unnecessary expense to the patrons of the schools, should be discouraged. The books on our State list are good and well-arranged books, and the retail price is *very low*. A judicious use of these books, under the supervision of a competent county superintendent, will bring results entirely satisfactory.